

THE SATURDAY PRESS.

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All matter for the SATURDAY PRESS should be addressed to the "SATURDAY PRESS."

The Prodigals.

"Princes! and you most valorous
Nobles and barons of all degrees!
Hearken awhile to the prayer of us—
Beggers that come from the overseas—
Nothing we ask of you, gold or of fees—
For us not with the bounds we pray!
Lo! for the streets' hem we set—
Give us, ah! give us but yesterday!"

"Dames most delicate, amorous,
Damoiselles lillies as the bellied bees!
Hearken awhile to the prayer of us—
Beggers that come from the overseas—
Nothing we ask of you, gold or of fees—
For us not with the bounds we pray!
Lo! for the streets' hem we set—
Give us, ah! give us but yesterday!"

"Damoiselles, dames, be gone!
But the lillies of the roadway trees!
Hear us, O knights magnanimous!
Nothing we ask of you, gold or of fees—
For us not with the bounds we pray!
Lo! for the streets' hem we set—
Give us, ah! give us but yesterday!"

YOUTH, take heed to the prayer of these:
Many there be by the dusty way—
Many that cry to the rocks and seas,
"Give us, ah! give us but yesterday!"

—A. C. SCHUBERT.

Brevities.

It is better to be a righter of wrongs than a writer about wrongs.

A fifty-dollar painted fan makes no more wind than a five-cent palm leaf.

The fashionable color continues to be old gold. Even freckles are of that color.

A medical student declares that the sudden death of Little Eva was calculated to awe Topsey.

It is said that Ohio wives do their own housework. Now that is the kind of an no hire idea that we like.

There are two distinct kinds of boys in this world—the human boy and the boy who exists in Sunday-school books.

Ladies traveling together without an escort are called "petticoat parties." To fall in with a petticoat party is the bachelor's supreme bliss.

Coleridge says that he once knew a man who had advanced to such a pitch of self-esteem that he never mentioned himself without taking off his hat.

Walk through some of the dirty slums of the great metropolis and you can realize the force of the words, "The man who enters here leaves so behind."

Little drops of water (in the milk) and little grains of sand (in the sugar) are what make the big fortunes of the humble milkmen and the obscure grocer.

Deaf lady: "What's his name?" Young lady: "Augustus Tyler." The deaf lady: "Hess me, what a name!" Bessie Biler: "Eliza, you must be making fun of me."

A woman cannot become a successful lawyer. She is too fond of giving her opinion. Without pay—*EE*. But she can make out a tremendous case sometimes on a terribly small showing of facts.

Lord Brougham once, when he was in a facetious mood, being asked to define a lawyer, said: "A lawyer is a learned gentleman who rescues your estate from your enemies and keeps it himself."

A garrulous fop, who, by his frivolous remarks, had annoyed his partner in a ball-room, among other empty things asked whether she had ever had her ears pierced. "No," was the reply; "but I have often had them bored."

An "Association for the Removal of the Bishops from the House of Lords" has been formed, in consequence of the action of the majority of the Bishops on the Bishops bill. The Rev. W. J. E. Bennett, of Froome, has been elected chairman.

"Probably has been elected," says the London *Truth*, "have had many proposals of marriage as Lady Bardsley-Coutts. I was talking a day or two ago with an eminent widower, 'I, myself,' said he, 'have proposed to her, for I regard this as a duty that every man owes to his family.'"

The case of Dr. Tanner is not equal to that of the celebrated pig which was found at East Cliff, Dover, after being one hundred and sixty days under thirty feet of chalk, alive but much reduced in weight. This is a well authenticated case, and is mentioned by Dr. Carpenter in his "Physiology."

Footie was talking away one evening at a dinner-table of a man of rank, when, at the point of one of his best stories, one of the party interrupted him suddenly with an air of most considerate apology. "I beg your pardon, Mr. Footie, but your handkerchief is half out of your pocket."

"Thank you, sir," said Footie, replacing it, "you know the company better than I do, and finished his joke."

It is calculated that the ten million barrels of beer reported by the Brewers' Congress as having been sold last year would have filled a canal five feet deep and twenty-one feet wide, extending from New York to Philadelphia, and that it would take a pump throwing thirty gallons a minute twenty-one years to pump it out.

Al. pulled was my noble brow,
The waiting night was late,
I started neither cried in fear,
"My child, what have you there?"

I heard my father's smothered laugh,
It seemed so strange and far;
I knew he knew I knew he knew
I smothered my first fear.

The Demopolis (Ala.) News tells the following story: "Our census enumerator reports a colored woman on Martin Rice's place one hundred and fourteen years old. Seeing that the old woman was proud of her age and her recollections of antiquity, he asked her some questions touching General Washington's horse and the revolutionary war, all of which being satisfactorily answered, he said: 'Old lady, you must have heard the Roman Empire when it fell?' 'I don't reckon number de circumstance you spoke of now, but I heard a mighty rumble noise de war de stars fell, and I spec it must be dees dat. Things was constant fallin' dat year, and if it fell in old North Carolina, I was dar.'"

The Destruction of Forests and the Remedy.

(From "Bradstreet's," N. Y.)

It is a part of the Japanese moral code to return something to the soil from which a crop has been taken before replanting it with seed, and to plant two trees for every one that is cut down. The people of the United States and of Japan present the strongest contrast in the foregoing respects that can be found among the great nations. It may be truthfully said of the people of this country, that in the treatment of the soil and the consumption of forests they are more prodigal than the people of any other. There are large tracts of land in California, which formerly yielded from fifty to sixty crops of hay per acre, and which have long ceased to yield more than from fifteen to twenty. On the coast of Maine there are many farms which were once remarkable for their great fertility, and which produce scarcely anything now. The term "worn out lands" has become intimately associated with the southern states, and we now read that the most famous wheat lands of Minnesota are "giving out." The pine forests of New York are hardly remembered; the pines, which made Maine a great ship-building state, are extinct, and for the few ships she has built during late years she has been obliged to rely upon the southern states for most of the timber. Even Pennsylvania, it is said imports from other states as much white pine lumber as she exports, and in a few years she will be almost as dependent on other states for this description of lumber, as New York has become. The most important pines now left in the United States are in Michigan. As an example of their rapid destruction, a correspondent of the *Cincinnati Gazette* writes:

"The Saginaw valley formerly contained the largest and finest pine forests in the State of Michigan. Mill after mill was built along the banks of the river, until their united capacity reached 600,000,000 feet of lumber per year. To supply these mills, the pine in the Saginaw valley has been already in great part exhausted, and mill owners are obliged to bring logs from other rivers, often as far as 150 miles distant, to supplement the stock of the Saginaw river. The output on that river has reached its climax. No more new mills are built, or old ones replaced. The business must gradually diminish in volume until the Saginaw valley, now the greatest lumber district in the world, shall bear the buzz of the saw no more."

The forests of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota contain the chief supplies of pine timber east of the Rocky mountains. The correspondent of the *Gazette* endeavors to answer the question: How long will these supplies last? Taking the Alpena district, Michigan, as a guide in that state, it is believed the supply will last fifteen years. He says:

"These figures agree very closely with those given me a few weeks ago by the president of the largest logging company on the Mississippi river, operating in the Wisconsin pines, a region that has been worked much less extensively than the Michigan pines. They would last, he said thirty or forty years. The Minnesota pines are not so large as either of the others, and will probably not survive them. In from twenty-five to forty years the logs will be cut, and the entire country from Maine to the Rocky mountains must learn to live with meagre quantities of pine lumber brought at great expense from distant countries."

A colored man who had contracted a debt some years ago with one of our merchants came to town yesterday and called on his old creditor. "Didn't you 'splain to me dat if I settled up dat account you would give me 'lowance?' " said the darky to the creditor. "Yes, I did, my Sam," replied the merchant. "If you are ready to settle your bill now I will make a good allowance," and the merchant waited for the colored individual to pull out his pocketbook. "Well, sir, I hain't got de money 'juz now, but I thought I'd come in and get de 'lowance; my wife wants a saw!"

An American writer in the current number of the *Contemporary* mentions one or two facts which enable us to measure some points of advantage which their position gives to the people of the United States over ourselves. "For military purposes," the writer tells us, "the people of Great Britain, during the year ending March, 1878, contributed a trifle over 18s. each. During the same period the Americans lived in security and maintained their honor, at the cost of only 1s. 2d. each for all purposes of national defence." This is very well; but what follows is really amazing.

Does any other nation, the writer proceeds, "show greater military power to pay to every private soldier who has lost hand, or foot, or sight in its service, the pension of £175 for the remainder of his days? Every year nearly 45,000,000 is paid to the disabled veterans of the American army. Certainly no other nation pays one hundred and seventy-five pounds a year to a disabled soldier, and most people will feel a trifle incredulous as to whether even America pays that sum."

—English Paper.

Mme. Scoboleff, the mother of the well-known Russian General, and the widow of an American General, was murdered near Philadelphia recently. The assassin was a Russian lieutenant in the East Roumanian Militia named Ustia. Mme. Scoboleff's own aide-de-camp, who employed four Montenegrins to waylay her. Ustia, it is stated, enjoyed the confidence of General Scoboleff and his mother, for whose journey he had made arrangements and attended to the packing of her baggage. Mme. Scoboleff went to Eastern Roumania to found a hospital in commemoration of the late war, and was enthusiastically received when she lately visited the House of Representatives. When attacked by the assassins, she was accompanied by a Russian officer, a lieutenant Ivanoff. Mme. Scoboleff and her maid were killed, and Ivanoff was fired at twice, and was wounded, but escaped, and succeeded in reaching Philadelphia, where he at once denounced Ustia, with whom he was well acquainted, as the assassin, and finding himself in danger, fled to the neighboring mountains, but was soon captured by a body of cavalry which was sent in pursuit. He has since committed suicide. The Montenegrins who are accused of being his accomplices are in the hands of the police; and his brother, with several of his personal friends, have been arrested. Rumors are supposed to have been the motive of the crime, as Mme. Scoboleff's money and personal ornaments were not to be found when the police arrived at the scene of the murder.

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